

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 /088 W

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R 161500Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7505

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1527

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ PFOR, CT, CH, TW

SUBJECT: CAR, TAIWAN AND THE PRC

SUMMARY: GOAR THIS MONTH HAS SENT FOREIGN MINISTER TO TAIPEI HAS DECIDED TO CHANGE FROM RESIDENT REPRESENTATION IN TAIPEI TO NON-RESIDENT ACCREDITATION (FROM TOKYO) AND HAS RECEIVED PRC AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE AT URGING OF ZAIRE PRESIDENT MOBUTU. ROC AMBASSADOR HERE DOES NOT FORESEE SHORT-RUN BREAK IN RELATIONS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE OUTCOME COULD BE AFFECTED SIGNIFICANTLY IF PRC OFFERS LARGE AMOUNT OF ECONOMIC AID. END SUMMARY.

1. CAR FOREIGN MINISTER FRANCK VISITED TAIPEI FOR FOUR DAYS IN EARLY AUGUST AFTER SEOUL (SEE BANGUI 1438) AND BEFORE COLOMBO. ALTHOUGH CHINESE AMBASSADOR HERE HAS NEITHER A DETAILED REPORT ON THE VISIT NOR A COPY OF THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH HE UNDERSTANDS WAS ISSUED, HE SAYS
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THE ROC IS ACQUESCING IN THE CAR DESIRE TO WITHDRAW ITS

EMBASSY FROM TAIPEI AND TO SHIFT TO NON-RESIDENT ACCREDITATION FROM TOKYO. (THE CAR IS JUSTIFYING THE MOVE AS A MONEY-SAVING MEASURE.)

2. ROC AND ROK EMBASSIES HERE INFORM US THAT PRC AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE, ACCOMPANIED BY FOUR OTHER CHINESE, ARRIVED BANGUI AUGUST 12 BY ZAIRIAN HELICOPTER WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK MOBUTU BACK TO ZAIRE. MOBUTU ARRIVED AT AIRPORT SHORTLY AFTER CHINESE FOR HIS OWN DEPARTURE CEREMONIES AND PERSONALLY INTRODUCED PRC AMBASSADOR TO PRESIDENT BOKASSA. HE HAD ARRANGED AN EARLIER MEETING OF THE TWO WHEN BOKASSA VISITED KINSHASA IN JULY. THE PRC DELEGATION REMAINED IN BANGUI FOR TWO DAYS.

3. ROC AMBASSADOR DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PRC VISIT AND THE CHANGE FROM RESIDENT CAR REPRESENTATION IN TAIPEI TO NON-RESIDENT ACCREDITATION HERALDS AN EARLY BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH THE ROC. HE IS TELLING CAR OFFICIALS THAT THEY SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT AN ACT WHICH WOULD INTRODUCE THE SINO-SOVIET COMPETITION INTO THE CAR-A COMPETITION WHICH, HE IS NOTING, WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE ANGOLA CONFLICT.

4. COMMENT: IN THE PAST, BOKASSA HAD A PERSONAL AND ALMOST OBSESSIVE FEAR OF THE PRC. WITH WHICH HE BROKE RELATIONS WHEN HE TOOK POWER IN 1966 BECAUSE OF PRC ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING PARAMILITARY ASSISTANCE TO HIS PREDECESSOR FOR WHAT WAS ALLEGEDLY A PRIVATE ARMY. HOWEVER, THE FACT REMAINS THAT MONEY IS A KEY DETERMINANT OF CAR FOREIGN POLICY. THE CAR IS APPARENTLY DISPLEASED WITH THE RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF ROC ASSISTANCE. (A PROPOSED \$10 MILLION SUGAR PLANTATION AND FACTORY PROJECT IS STALLED BECAUSE THE ROC CAN COME UP WITH ONLY \$2 MILLION ITSLEF AND MUST SEEK THE BALANCE ELSEWHERE, ACCORDING TO THE ROC AMBASSADOR.) IF THE PRC WERE TO OFFER A LARGE PROJECT, SUCH AS THE RAILWAY WHICH HAS BEEN AT THE TOP OF THE CAR LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR SOME YEARS, BOKASSA MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND AND ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PEKING. FOR THE MOMENT HIS STRATEGY APPEARS TO BE TO REDUCE HIS DIRECT ASSOCIATIONS WITH TAIPEI, INCREASE INFORMAL CON-
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TACKS WITH PEKING AND TO WAIT TO SEE WHAT AID OFFERS ARE FORTHCOMING FROM BOTH SIDES.
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